Affairs of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute

1514. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large number of ex-defence personnel have been posted in Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling in lieu of local experts;

(b) whether as a result thereof, a number of residential complexes have been constructed within Himalayan Mountaineering Institute Complex;

(c) whether this has resulted to ecological imbalance; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to save Himalayan Mountaineering Institute?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As informed by Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, no ex-defence personnel have been posted in lieu of local experts. However, six ex-defence personnel have been employed in the Insitute as Peon (1), Chowkidars (2), Upper Divison Clerk (1), Catering Assistant (1), and Driver (1).

(b) No new residential building has been constructed in HMI since April, 1989. However, a Group 'D' Quarter Block was constructed by the Institute during 1993-94, which is located outside the HMI complex. The block has ten quarters and only one Ex-Defence personnel is staying in that block.

(c) No such ecological imbalance has been reported by the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute.

(d) Does not arise.

Superannuation Age of Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya Teachers

1515. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to raise superannuation age of Kendriya Vidyalaya and Nvodaya Vidyalaya teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c): The question of raising the age of Superannuation of School teachers is under consideration of the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resurce Development.

Incidents of stone throwing on trains in Mumbai

1516. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of stone throwing on commuters of suburban trains in Mumbai have increased;

(b) if so, whether the Railway authorities have conducted any enquiry into these incidents; and

(c) if so, the conclusions of the enquiry and the action taken to check this menace and punish the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. "Policing" being a State subject, the safety and security of passengers and their belongings in the running trains and railway premises in the Constitutional responsibility of the State Government concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Poice (GRP). The cases of crimes on railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway

Police (GRP). However, recently Railways have carried out joint special drives alongwith GRP against this meance. Steps like video shooting of areas adjacent to Railway track to detect miscreants have also been started. GRP have also arrested some of the miscreants and registered cases against them.

Time-Bound Policy for Promotions to Khalasis

1517. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khalasis working as Waiter/Cahs Clerk/Kitchen Cook in various canteens of Parliament complex have not been provided any promotions since the last many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to adopt any time bound policy to provide promotion to Khalasis in their respective job specifications in the Parliament complex; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Khalasis working in the Canteens of Parliament Complex are being given promotion to the same grade posts of Waiter/ Bearer as status promotion, and to the higher grade posts, on oPtion, either of Head Waiter/Head Bearer, Bill Issuer, Catering Supervisor or of Assistant Cook, Cook, Senior Cook and Master Cook, as per extant rules on the availability of vacancies.

(c) and (d) There is no system of time bound promotion in existence or proposed to be introduced in the Railways. The promotions depend, inter-alia on the availability of vacancies in higher grades and suitability of the employees.

Extension of Sabari Railway line upto Punaloor

1518. SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL: Will the Ministr of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Sabari rail line is proposed to be extended upto Punaloor as twelve months traffic is available on this route; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): There is no proposal for extension of the proposed Sabari railway line upto Punaloor at present. The reasons tereof are constraint of resources.

Train Accidents in South Central Railway

1519. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents occurring in South-Central Railway during this year;

(b) whether the reasons for all these accidents have been identified; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of these accidents took place in the Vijayawada Division only; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the preventive steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The number of accidents occurred in South Central Railway during April, 1998 to November, 1998 are 40 only.